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VIDELA, FIGUEIREDO, STROESSNER TO MEET IN APRIL

PY241437 Paris AFP in Spanish 1346 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (AFP)--The presidents of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay will meet in April at an undetermined location, journalistic sources revealed here today.

The central topic of the meeting will be energy exploitation of the upper Parana on the part of the three countries, added the press sources which reported the news.

The neutral site where the trilateral meetings will be held among Generals Jorge R. Videla, Joao Baptista Figueiredo and Alfredo Stroessner is still unknown, the report indicated.

It has not been discounted in this capital that the three chiefs of state, in addition to the economic exploitation of the rivers they share, may analyze other matters of common interest.

While no official source has confirmed that the meeting will take place, neither did government circles deny this immediately after it was reported by the metropolitan Argentine press.

PERU, ARGENTINA LAUNCH IONOSPHERIC RESEARCH PROBE

PA252209 Paris AFP in Spanish 1749 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 23 Mar (AFP)--An Argentine Castor rocket, part of the Peruvian-Argentine joint venture to study ionospheric interference, was successfully launched in Peru last night. The 8.2-meter long, 230-kg rocket rose 300 km and ejected two huge orange clouds of barium. The clouds were first round and then spread to attain a size of 80 km by 220 km, reproducing distrubances which affect the propagation of electromagnetic waves.

Commodore Arnoldo Valenzuela, chief of the test project, said at the launching base of Punta Lobos, 70 km south of Lima, that "we managed to reproduce the ionospheric phenomenon which we want to study." He added that the processing of the data obtained will take 6 months and that several Peruvian land-based stations, two U.S. planes and two satellites participated in the experiment.

Carlos Calderon, director of the national Peruvian commission of space research and development, thanked the RFA and the United States for their cooperation in making the mission a success.

Another rocket had been launched on Wednesday night, but it failed to spread the barium clouds for reasons which have not yet been determined.

CNT, COMMITTEE OF 25 ISSUE CALL FOR LABOR UNITY

PY261525 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1144 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (NA)--Secretaries general of the Metallurgical Workers Union (UOM) from all over the country called on workers to "remain united around their labor organizations" and demanded an "immediate salary increase consisting of a fixed and real amount for all workers without exception." Although the UOM has been intervened, word has leaked out that the secretaries general had met, with the necessary authorization, at the organization's headquarters.

A document was released at the conclusion of the meeting proposed that a demand be made for the aforementioned salary increase and requesting the freedom for the leaders who are being detained without trial, including Lorenzo Miguel, former chief of the union and of the Peronist 62 Organizations.

Yesterday's meeting was chaired by leaders Luis Guerrero, Alberto Campos and Lisandro Zapata, who were members of the union's national board before the intervention. Guerrero and Zapata are leaders of the National Labor Commission [CNT] and Campos' position leans toward the Committee of 25.

To a certain extent the three represent the division existing in the union until recently and which on this occasion was overcome. It was also decided to issue a call for unity, using as an example the agreement achieved within the UOM.

April Meeting

PY262036 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1906 GMT 26 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (NA)--According to information released by reliable union sources this afternoon, the leaders of the Commission of 25 and the National Labor Commission will hold another meeting during the second week in April in order to attain unity of the labor movement. This announcement was made only a few hours after the first of such meetings, at which agreement was reached concerning a variety of labor issues.

Renault Settlement

PY261615 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1238 GMT 26 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 26 Mar (NA)--As of today's second shift, activities have returned to normal in all the plants of the Renault complex in this city, which have been paralyzed since 16 March by a stoppage originating over a salary dispute. The workers turned up on time and began their normal tasks, although production will not begin for several hours because the plant's installations have to be put into condition.

Work has returned to normal on the basis of an agreement achieved early yesterday morning between the parties through the intervention of the local office of the Labor Ministry.

This official organization reported last night in a communique the agreement that helped overcome the conflict and guide the salary negotiations. It also urged the personnel to turn up for work today. The official communique states: 1) Workers will return to their tasks on Monday; 2) at the same time the enterprise will proceed to immediately rehire all workers who have been fired; and 3) the Labor Ministry will call, at the very latest on Wednesday the 28th, the parties together in order to continue with the dialog to obtain the basic agreements to help in overcoming, in an overall way, the dispute that caused the conflict.

Therefore, the personnel of Renault Argentina are urged to turn up for their respective shifts and immediately begin their usual tasks."

The fired workers, approximately 150, will all be rehired in accordance with the agreement arrived. The Labor Ministry, through the labor police, will oversee implementation of the agreement and will call the parties together to continue the dialog. This new meeting will have the objective of getting the parties to agree on the salary situation.

Meanwhile, sources at the Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transport Workers [SMATA] indicated, reporting the agreement, that at the next meeting the enterprise will be asked to implement the periodic salary readjustments it had promised the Labor Ministry in September; that it incorporate into the basic salaries of each category the bonuses for production; and that it pay the salaries lost during the stoppage, including social benefits.

Work has returned to normal at the plant, located in the Santa Isabel neighborhood, and at the subsidiaries of Ilasa Norte and Ilasa Sur and the DPM stamping plant.

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. VIEWS NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT MOVES

PY262136 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Mar 79 p 4 PY

[Excerpt] Argentine Ambassador to the United States Jorge Aja Espil has indicated that the U.S. Government "does not oppose" Argentina's nuclear plan. Aja Espil made this statement when he arrived in Buenos Aires yesterday to "exchange ideas with Argentine ambassadors to countries where Argentine interests are being evaluated before the government can make the final choice in connection with bids for the construction of nuclear plants."

Aja Espil was the second to arrive among the ambassaodrs called by the Foreign Ministry; he was preceded yesterday by Enrique Quintana, ambassador to Switzerland.

Aja Espil stated at Ezeiza international airport that he had been called home by the Foreign Ministry to exchange ideas in connection with the call for bids which will be made shortly aimed at the program for the construction of nuclear plants.

As for the news reports which indicated that the United States intends to object to Argentina's nuclear plan, Aja Espil said: "I believe this was fully discussed by Foreign Minister Pastor in the interview he granted 2 or 3 days ago." Aja Espil added: "He made it clear that there is no opposition from the U.S. Government. There is a U.S. law passed last year by which the U.S. Government or administration must abide."

He went on to say that "there have been no statements from the State Department in this regard. In answer to a question by a correspondent some time ago, the answer had been that the State Department was aware of the negotiations Argentina was conducting, and hoped the country would abide by the security clauses which are common to all nations. "This is the only official statement by the U.S. State Department," Aja Espil said.

Concerning the intention some observers say the United States has of supplying certain components for Argentina's future nuclear plants, Aja Espil indicated that "ever since the visit U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance made to Argentina in November 1977, the possibilities of increasing the transfer of U.S. nuclear technology to Argentina have been discussed. "These discussions have been conducted by officials of the National Atomic Energy Commission during meetings with U.S. experts," he added.

Asked if the United States understands Argentina's nuclear program, Aja Espil answered that "the position of the United States is not adverse to other nations developing nuclear technology; it is concerned, however, about the degree of security which would surround this nuclear development once it is in private hands."

"As a matter of fact, an article that was to be published in a technical magazine was considered dangerous by the American Government because it would release information considered secret. Therefore, the government prohibited publication of the article--an action which is now being discussed in court," Aja Espil said.

The ambassador pointed out that "the fact that the publication of this article has been prohibited in a country such as the United States, where the press has total freedom, clearly shows the direction in which the U.S. Government's concern is aimed, even within its own country."

VIDELA, PASTOR MEET WITH BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

PY261949 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1620 GMT 26 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (NA)--Bolivian Foreign Minister Raul Botelho Gozalvez today delivered a personal letter sent by Bolivian President Padilla Arancibia to his Argentine colleague Jorge Videla at a meeting held today at Government House.

Botelho Gozalvez, who arrived last night on what is described as an unofficial visit as part of a tour which includes Peru and Uruguay, met with the Argentine president this morning.

The foreign minister was accompanied by Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos Washington Pastor, with whom he had already held a meeting this morning at the Foreign Ministry to discuss several issues, among them the building of a railroad, "which is of great interest to Bolivia."

On leaving the Foreign Ministry to attend the Government House meeting, during which he would present his greetings to President Videla and deliver the Bolivian president's letter, Botelho Gozalvez declined to issue a statement, noting that he would hold a press conference tomorrow before his departure for Montevideo.

After the meeting with President Videla, Botelho Gozalvez and Pastor returned to the Foreign Ministry, where they continued discussing subjects of bilateral interest during a working luncheon. It is possible that the Bolivian foreign minister will hold a meeting with Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz.

BRIEFS

DELEGATION TO MIDEAST--A special trade delegation organized by the Trade and International Economic Negotiations secretariat has left for Sudan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The delegation is made up of representatives of the Maritime Interests Secretariat, the Central Bank, the National Grain Council, and several industrial and agricultural enterprises. [Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 16 Mar 79 p 7 PY]

BANZER PREDICTS CORRUPTION OF JULY ELECTIONS

PY270101 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2126 GMT 26 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 26 Mar (LATIN)--Bolivia's former president, Gen Hugo Banzer, stated today that the "masters of fraud" will corrupt the general elections scheduled for 1 July. Banzer, who led the country from August 1971 to July 1978, held a press conference to strongly defend his administration. Ousted by the former official candidate for the presidency, Gen Juan Pereda Asbun, Banzer today echoed reports of preparations for fraud during the coming elections.

Rightwing sectors, especially the Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB), have been harassing the National Electoral Court, the organization in charge of the electoral process. However, through statements by the president, Gen David Padilla, and the interior minister, Col Raul Lopez Leyton, the military junta today reaffirmed its decision to guarantee clean elections.

General Banzer Suarez' political reappearance took place Saturday with the creation of a new political party called Nationalist Democratic Action, which appointed Banzer as its leader. According to Banzer's speech, the guidelines of the party are Christian humanism, nationalism and opposition to Marxism-Leninism. The new political force will be based on love, peace, order and work, the former chief of state said today.

'Political Storm'

PY270207 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0010 GMT 27 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 26 Mar (TELAM-PA)--Former Bolivian President Hugo Banzer today caused a political storm when he stated that the next election will be overwhelmed by fraud. In his first press conference as head of the Nationalist Democratic alliance, which came into being publicly this weekend, Banzer said: "The truth is that one can buy votes, either with money or beer."

The interior minister, Col Raul Lopez Leyton, immediately replied to Banzer, charging him with offending the armed forces. "We will only follow the good actions of the past, never the bad ones," Lopez Leyton said, alluding to the fraudulent election held under Banzer's administration just 8 months ago.

BANK GROUP CRITICIZES DIRECTION OF ECONOMY

PY241358 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpts] The economic deficit in banks and financial institutions is about to reach 10 billion pesos, according to the bulletin of the Association of Banks and Financial Institutions. The document states that Bolivia suffers from steep inflation, originating in the public sector, which had contributed barely 10 percent of the gross domestic product, in the past few years. We believe the time has come to evaluate the work of the public enterprises within the national context, the report says, adding that the social cost of those enterprises is very high.

As shown by the fiscal report, going back to 1977, these are low-profit enterprises employing a relatively small part of the labor force and absorbing almost 40 percent of investments in the country. They do not pay taxes and they hinder the [word indistinct] of the state, it adds. On one hand the private sector is controlled and overburdened with tax obligations, while on the other hand the public sector is ineffective, uncontrolled and subsidized.

FORMER UNION OFFICIAL RESUMES STRIKE LEADERSHIP

PY261443 Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpts] Luis Ignacio da Silva [former president of the Sao Bernardo metallurgical union] has resumed leadership of the metallurgical workers strike in Sao Bernardo and Diadema. The strike is now in its 14th day.

Yesterday morning the union leader attended mass celebrated by Santo Andre Bishop (Claudio Rumens) and three other priests from the ABC at the Sao Bernardo do Campo church. Speaking to 14,000 metallurgical workers who were present there, he said he will resume leadership of the strike because orders are bring given by some elements not recognized by the movement. He reiterated several times the need to avoid confrontations with the police.

At the end of the mass Luis Ignacio da Silva said the workers should return to their jobs only if they are given a wage increase without the 11 percent reduction, are paid for the days they are on strike and the union is not intervened.

In the afternoon he again addressed steelworkers at the Sao Bernardo municipal park. The union board decided to resume the leadership of the movement because we feel the strike is honorable and just, he told them. We do this because we cannot allow workers to be kicked and beaten as they were last week, Ignacio da Silva said.

Meanwhile, the Rio de Janeiro teachers decided to return to classes after a week of general strike. The decision was made during a general meeting of approximately 5,000 teachers. The executive commission of the strike considered that the state government has met 80 percent of their main demands, but warned that they will remain vigilant to see that those promises are fulfilled.

Strike-Related Arrests

PY261512 Sao Paul Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] Agents of DOPS [Department of Political and Social Order] yesterday detained 13 persons in Sao Paulo. They were eight men and five women who were distributing pamphlets inviting people to gather at 1830 today at the Praca da Se to attend a rally expressing solidarity with the striking steelworkers and also with the metallurgical workers unions of Santo Andre and Sao Bernardo do Campo which are under government intervention. According to the DOPS director, the detained persons were taken to the DOPS headquarters and interrogated, booked and then released.

SPOKESMAN SAYS NO APRIL TRIPARTITE MEETING PLANNED

PY270055 Paris AFP in Spanish 2202 GMT 26 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 26 Mar (AFP)--Brazilian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernardo Pericas Neto today refuted the possibility of a meeting between the Argentine, Brazilian and Paraguayan presidents in April. According to reports released earlier in Buenos Aires, Generals Jorge Rafael Videla of Argentina, Joao Baptista Figueiredo of Brazil and Alfredo Stroessner of Paraguay might meet to discuss problems connected with the hydroelectric projects on the Parana River. The negotiations for reconciliation of the Brazilian-Paraguayan Itaipu project and the Argentine-Paraguayan Corpus project were suspended last February by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry.

SUICIDE RULED IN DEATH OF FORMER AMBASSADOR

PY261230 Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Mar 79 PY

[Text] The Rio de Janeiro police have concluded that former Ambassador Jose Jobim committed suicide. His body was found hanging from a tree in front of the Serra Mar Hotel on the Barra highway Saturday morning.

The police conclusions are based only on identification of the store where Jobin reportedly bought the nylon cord to hang himself. Detectives assigned to the case were unable to gain any information from the victim's relatives regarding his life insurance. There were rumors in Rio de Janeiro, however, that he had insurance worth 2 million cruzeiros and his suicide was made to look like a kidnaping so as not to lose the insurance benefits.

BRASILIA TO DEEMPHASIZE TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA

PY271153 Paris AFP in Spanish 0024 GMT 27 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 26 Mar (AFP)--A spokesman of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry stated here today that the Brazilian Government has always avoided promoting trade with South Africa. According to an article in JORNAL DO BRASIL, this trade has increased--despite UN recommendations--and has thus harmed Brazil's diplomatic and trade efforts in Africa, especially those with the Portuguese-speaking former colonies in that continent.

The spokesman indicated that the Office for Trade Promotion at the Brazilian Embassy in Pretoria has been closed, like the Brazilian Consulate in Cape Town.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also remarked that despite the net increase (especially regarding Brazil's imports of South African products) in relation to 1976, trade between the two countries in 1978 reached the same level as in 1977, in other words, approximately $138 million, of which $101 million was for imports.

In comparison, Brazil's trade with all African countries in 1978 amounted to $1,124 billion ($634 million in exports and $490 million in imports).

BRIEFS

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL APPOINTMENT--Colonel Rubem Ludwig has been appointed chief of staff of the Office of the National Security Council. During the Geisel government he held the position of presidential press adviser. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Mar 79 p 3 PY]

MILITARY COURT APPOINTMENTS--President Figueiredo today attended the swearing-in of Gen Reynaldo Mello de Almeida and Lima Torres as president and vice president, respectively, of the Superior Military Court. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Mar 79 PY]

COURTS TO MAKE SPECIAL PROBE OF MISSING PERSONS

PY261610 Paris AFP in Spanish 1547 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 24 Mar (AFP)--The Chilean courts have appointed special judges in the cases of missing persons in the cities of Santiago, Rancagua, Chillan and Concepcio

The Chilean Catholic Church has been making this request since 1976 to determine the circumstances in which about 650 persons have disappeared after their arrests, according to observers here.

Supreme Court Chief Israel Borquez, who disclosed the appointment of the judges, said proceedings which have been annulled will stay that way unless there is new evidence and the appointed judge decides to reopen them. Borquez noted that a civil or penal record must be submitted for each case to be reopened in order to prove the existence of the missing persons.

Church sources noted here that the courts have declined 10 times to appoint special judges to study the cases of detainees who disappeared between 1973 and 1978 during the state of siege. The church reported the finding of 15 bodies in an abandoned lime kiln in Lonquen, 50 km south of Santiago. The bodies were identified last February by relatives and identified as missing detainees.

GRENADES, OTHER EXPLOSIVES FOUND IN EX-CUBAN EMBASSY

PY261257 Paris AFP in Spanish 1539 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile 24 Mar (AFP)--Explosive material and a number of handgrenades were removed today from the former Cuban Embassy here.

At the request of the Chilean Foreign Ministry, personnel from the security services explosives squad came to the former Cuban Embassy, which is now under the protection of the Swedish Embassy, and removed the materiel. According to Swedish Embassy personnel, "the explosives constituted a serious peril for the occupants of the house and the entire neighborhood."

It was learned that the explosives have been there for more than 6 years. The Cuban Embassy operated in Santiago until 1973. The materiel was removed with the aid of special equipment and was taken to the security service office to be analyzed and detonated. There were about 10 grenades.

In 1973 the Chilean military government broke diplomatic relations with Cuba after ousting the leftist government of President Salvador Allende (1970-1973).

BRIEFS

NEW MILITARY POST--During his stay in Puerto Montt as part of his southern tour, President Augusto Pinochet dedicated part of the Southern Highway and announced the establishment of a military post in Chaiten in an effort to increase the military presence in the area. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 79 PY]

INDIAN LAND LAW--President Pinochet yesterday signed the new national Indian law which grants the present inhabitants of Indian reservations the property titles of the land they are working, thus making them true owners of the lands. The new law establishes that the new owners cannot sell their land to people outside the Mapuche community for 20 years and then only with the authorization of INDAP. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Mar 79 PY]

ECOPETROL SAYS NATION'S FUEL SUPPLY FOR 1979 ASSURED

PA261859 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--Alvaro Barrera Rueda, president of the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [ECOPETROL], today said the nation's fuel supply for the rest of 1979 is assured. He described the measures adopted so far as merely preventive.

Barrera Rueda explained that the nation has assured its fuel supply from abroad through contracts signed with several U.S. firms which will enter into effect on 1 April. He urged continued saving of fuel, however, as nobody can predict the outcome of the present crisis. He added that although the world crisis may normalize, one must take preventive action.

Meanwhile, the director of the Administrative Department of Traffic and Transportation, Edgar Sanchez Molina, today submitted a satisfactory picture of the government's campaign to save fuel on Sundays and holidays. He praised the people's behavior and said the measures had been observed exceptionally well. Sanchez Molina revealed that only nine official vehicles were detained for violating the dispositions. One gas station was fined for selling fuel to private cars.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE CREATED IN PARIS

PA242243 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Paris--A committee for the defense of human rights of political prisoners in Colombia has just been created in Paris, according to a communique released by this organization and published here today. In the document, the organization reveals that its purpose is to inform public opinion about the situation in Colombia, which has been too often described as one of the few democracies still existing in Latin America. The freedoms of expression, reunion, association and strike are being violated day after day, the communique added. Military justice is the only justice in the country, and the number of political prisoners is increasing daily, the communique added.

The association will publish a mimeographed publication periodically. The first issue of the 22-page publication includes information on the security statute and military justice in Colombia and an appeal to Colombians to fight. It also publishes a list of 60 men and women arrested and tortured by the Colombian Military Institutes Brigade.

This first publication also appeals to the French people to send messages to Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay and international organizations such as the United Nations, the OAS, Amnesty International and others demanding that human rights be respected in Colombia.

BETANCUR SCORES GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY

PA261553 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Paica, Boyaca, Colombia--Belisario Betancur, a presidential candidate in past elections, has harshly criticized measures adopted by the government in the construction sector and also the paralyzation of the housing financing corporations. Commenting on the economic policy outlined by Finance Minister Jaime Garcia Parra, Betancur scored the restrictive measures adopted for fear of the inflation threatening the country. He said the restrictions have increased unemployment and have instigated general social concern.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER DISCUSSES NUEVA MAGAZINE CASE

PA241735 Quito Cadena Del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Government Minister Rear Adm Victor Garces has warned that from now on all persons insulting or slandering the armed forces will be court-martialed. According to the minister, this decision was made after verifying that the members of the opposition and critics have surpassed the government's tolerance limit. In order to try its critics, the government will resort to the military law implemented on 12 January 1976 when the triumvirate rose to power.

The warrant of arrest and the trial begun against columnist Cyrano Tama Paz, of Guayaquil's newspaper EXPRESO, constitute the first signs of this hardening. During a lengthy conversation with several newsmen, Minister Garces indicated that neither Tama's imprisonment nor the recent closing of the magazine NUEVA can be regarded as gagging the freedom of expression. The minister also asked that criticism and analysis of the government's actions not be confused with offenses.

Furthermore, Garces reiterated the regime's interest in concluding the plan for the restoration of democracy, within the framework of which presidential and legislative elections will be held on 29 April. The following is an excerpt of the interview granted by the government minister:

[Begin Garces recording] On a previous occasion I mentioned that I firmly believe that freedom of expression represents a guarantee for any type of political development in this country. It also represents a natural state. I reaffirm my belief in that concept.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Allow me to finish and I will answer your question. Let us then not confuse criticism or analysis of government activity with other things that are sanctioned by the law. These things include slander, lies and groundless direct insults.

In the case of journalist Tama, the deed has been done, the infraction committed. In that case, he must be tried, and the steps for the trial of this journalist are already underway. [He will remain under] preventive arrest until the judge in charge of the case decides whether he is guilty and decides on the sanction he deserves.

The case to which you are referring, that of economist Calderon's death, is proceeding normally. You all know that the case is now being handled by the Supreme Court of Justice. Thus, it will have to follow the normal procedure decided on by the court, without any government intervention and in strict accordance with the law.

[Question] (?But does preventive arrest exist?)

[Answer] Preventive arrest exists and has existed in the past. There are many persons detained under these circumstances.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Under the armed forces law on personnel, the moment a motivated [motivado] warrant is issued or, to use other terms, a person is placed sub judice, the military officer is placed in a state of availability and, if a judge orders his preventive arrest, this step is taken. So far, there has been no order of preventive arrest against the general.

[Question] Minister, [words indistinct].

[Answer] Yes, sure. Look, this is not a case of [words indistinct]. It is a case of insult against the armed forces. As such it falls within the purview of military law, and for this reason we are proceeding not as [words indistinct] but directly under charges of insulting the institution.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Excuse me, but I did not understand your question.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] The case of the magazine NUEVA, gentlemen, is very clear. The lady director [of the magazine] and several communications media have indicated that they do not know why the magazine was closed, that they see no reason for this. I have sent a note to the lady director of the magazine NUEVA specifying clearly the points upon which the magazine must inform the corresponding judges so that the corresponding trials against those persons the magazine accuses can begin.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] No, let us go step by step. Just a moment please. In this case, the magazine NUEVA must submit documents corresponding to the charges it makes in its most recent edition. I will now read what the magazine NUEVA must submit. This is taken directly from the magazine's pages. They are direct accusations. In a part of my note [to the magazine's director] I say: Specifically, you must submit documents proving the following charges:

A. Identification of those whom the magazine terms oil thieves, and documents proving their guilt.

B. A list of the judicial branch officials who have received gifts and bonuses to speed up procedures and judges who have received huge payments to carry out their activities, and documents proving this.

C. A list of those military officers owning imported cars who have not paid taxes and the corresponding documents of proof. Also, the names of those persons who have conducted private business with military merchandise and commissaries, and documents proving this; the name of the colonel manager who has received hundreds of thousands, and the documents proving this; the name of the general minister who has received millions, and documents proving this; the list of persons who have received tens of millions in an arms deal, and documents proving this; the names of the mayor and two associated generals who have received hundreds of millions, and documents proving this; the names of the general and four associated managers who have received billions, and documents proving this; the documents proving the existence of equipment that was not used for dredging, but was not certified by customs in the case of the importation of the [words indistinct] dredge, as well as the persons who received these effects; list of the public financial institution officials who have received millions in the form of bribes and graft in the case of La Previsora, and the corresponding documents proving this; the names of the Finance Ministry officials who have grown rich by arranging loans, and documents proving this; the names of officials who received a commission of from 32 to 195 million sucres for negotiating the consolidation of the country's foreign debt, and documents proving this.

As you can see, gentlemen, nothing is spared here.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] The magazine has simply been told that since it is making these charges it should substantiate them in court. Otherwise--allow me to read the last part--the magazine NUEVA will be definitely closed, and the government reserves the right to try its directors in court under charges of slander and defamation. [end recording]

From the conversation with Minister Garces it was deduced that the de facto regime is determined to resort to all legal weapons in order to stem any attempt at opposition. Of course, this intention had been evident before, but until now had not been clearly explained by the government.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE PROTESTS REPRESSION

PA232108 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Julio Prado Vallejo, president of the Human Rights Committee, has expressed the commission's deep concern over the wave of repression the government has unleashed against newsmen and publications which, exercising their right of free speech and information, have commented on situations known to thepublic.

Prado noted that the committee has continuously received complaints about new instances of torture such as that committed against a group of draftees [conscriptos] from Esmeraldas who acted in self-defense against the systematic brutality of an officer who had devoted himself to humiliating and beating them. He added that there have been complaints against the attitudes of certain judges who stop legal proceedings when one of theparties is a military man, as in the case of former Esmeraldas prefect Maximiliano Hart, who is in jail without having been duly sentenced in a trial.

There is also the case of other prisoners at the Guayaqil penitentiary who have been mistreated and taken to Quito's Garcian Moreno jail, where they are being held without any guarantee of any kind. Among them are Felipe Fernando Barria Ayala, Edgar Frias, Mauricio Munoz, Carlos Camba and others who, despite efforts, are being held in inhuman conditions in jail.

GOVERNMENT CREATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

PA262009 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 26 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Quito--The government has promulgated a law creating the Ecuadorean Atomic Energy Commission [Comision Ecuatoriana de Energia Atomica--CEEA], which will be under the presidency of the republic and which will draft, execute, coordinate and control corresponding policy according to the national interests and legally established international commitments. Atomic energy policy will be executed by the state through the CEEA

All deposits of radioactive minerals and any others of nuclear interest are the patrimony of the state. The state, through the CEEA, will control all activity and technology related to radioactive minerals, including radioisotopes and nuclear reactors [generadores de radiaciones ionizantes] and, in general, all aspects of nuclear and radiologic security.

CEEA will be in charge of the application of international treaties and agreements signed by the government and related to atomic energy.

TRUTH OF CORONEL CASE WILL COME OUT IN COURT

PY270204 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 25 Mar 79 p 5 PY

[Editorial]

[Excerpts] Let it not be thought that we are flogging a dead horse in the case of this somber criminal episode in San Luis del Parana in which the radicalized opposition, its press and its sounding board, the "Human Rights Commission," have become involved up to their ears through their "denunciation," their propaganda and--worst of all--their manhandling of certain diplomatic circles which listen to them with a suspicious interest which stinks of interference, and factional interference at that.

We are talking about the man we have been calling simply Constantino in our comments, and of the episode which took place on 2 January, when he was shot in a remote village in Itapua Department.

The way the "case" was presented by the opposition alliance--which is always conspiring to have pressure and interference directed at Paraguay and its government--it is allegedly a police plan to liquidate an innocent peasant leader of the Agrarian Leagues, a practicing Catholic and father of 11 children, whose only crime was to struggle for the freedom and well-being of the people. This was aimed at emphasizing the "political" nature of the matter and providing a pretext for interferences which have already appeared and which deserve an enlightening answer.

Two things must be made very clear: 1. This Constantino whose full name seems to be Eugenio Constantino Coronel Zorrilla, was imprisoned and tried for subversive activities last year, but recovered his freedom after making a long statement we have been publishing. This statement's truth is reinforced by the fact that its most compromising parts have been confirmed before reliable witnesses, and also because of the marked similarity between it and other statements of subversive elements. 2. Once released after having served the cause of struggle against clandestine organizations of extremist violence, this Constantino, far from leading a normal life, displayed great activity. Apart from further contacts with the police, which grew more and more infrequent, his trips to rural areas, to various towns in Misiones and Itapua from his residence in Luque became more and more frequent. His trips were noted, but since there were no reasons to take them into account he was finally forgotten until the bloody episode on 2 January brought him back into the limelight.

The fact that he managed to escape from the scene of the crime, reach Asuncion and contact well-known political figures, who secretly put him in a private hospital, was used to circulate a false version of the criminal episode concocted in advance. It was after finding out about the secret hospitalization and the reason for it (a gunshot wound) that investigations started. It was only then that this Constantino reported the "attack" after 6 days, although he could have done it within 24 hours. The information and background necessary for investigation of the criminal episode and the trial of those who participated in it were gathered in Encarnacion, headquarters of the judge who has jurisdiction over the area. In view of the intimate nature of the case and the circumstances which surround it, the officials of that city had their reasons for silencing it, a circumstance which was used to concoct a "political" version favorable to this Costantino. However, a maneuver has failed. The shots were fired at night, but there is a wounded young woman and a father who has explained, thus reducing to a crude invention the statement about shots in the dark "when I left the house to go to the restroom." And this will be proved because--as we said in a prior commentary--the jug had been dipped into the well so much that finally it broke.

Lawyer's Revelations

PY231305 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 23 Mar 79 p 17 PY

["Open letter" from Heriberto Alegre]

[Text] I, Heriberto Alegre, on behalf of my defendant, Eulogio Constantino Coronel, charged with the alleged crimes of armed housebreaking, attempted rape, personal injury, attempted homicide and association for criminal purposes, perpetrated in the village of San Luis del Parana, 10 km from the city of Encarnacion, wish to convey the following to the public:

It is well known that on 2 January 1979 my client was the victim of an attack in which he was shot in the stomach and later taken to the Hospital Universitario under guard by the Central Investigations Department. My client reported the attack on 8 January 1979 in a plea submitted to the criminal court of Encarnacion, requesting identification of the guilty person or persons. Later my client was taken to a private residence, still under guard; from this residence he was taken by investigations personnel to the national penitentiary on 8 March and charged with the above crimes.

In view of this, I went to the city of Encarnacion, where I found a [police] report on 28 February (1 month and 20 days after the plea submitted by my client). In addition to the charges made against Constantino Coronel, the report involved Domingo Laino and Mrs Carmen de Lara Castro. The report also stated that the U.S. Government would declare an economic blockade against the Paraguayan Government and that this, together with other actions, would allegedly lead to the ousting of that government.

In view of the significance of the police report, where these charges are made, I verbally asked the court on several occasions to provide me with a copy of it, but this request was refused.

On 10 March I presented a plea to the court, requesting a copy of the report on the grounds of Article 60 of the National Constitution, which states: "The accused [indiciado] will have access to the results of the investigation and all means for defense provided by law."

This request has not been answered to date, leaving the defendant without defense.

BRIEFS

BORDER INTEGRATION--Asuncion, 21 Mar (LATIN)--Diplomatic sources stated here today that the governments of Brazil and Paraguay are interested in achieving greater integration between the border cities of Foz de Yguazu and Presidente Stroessner. The idea is to facilitate the movement of vehicles and pedestrians without the need to present identification documents and to speed up procedures at the customs office. [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0303 GMT 22 Mar 79 PY]

DELEGATION MEETS STROESSNER--Members of the delegation of the Inter-American Defense College visiting Paraguay have met with President Alfredo Stroessner, who emphasized that he is also a soldier fulfilling his duties as president in a country of peace and progress. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 21 Mar 79 p 9 PY]

TECHNICAL SECRETARY--Federico Mandelburger, chief of the Technical Secretariat of Planning for economic and social development, is leaving his post as of 31 March. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 21 Mar 79 p 9 PY]

OIL PRICES TO RISE IN PROPORTION TO OPEC INCREASES

PA250141 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Jorge Diaz Serrano, director general of Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX], announced here today that Mexico will increase its export crude prices in proportion to the increase that the OPEC member countries will establish at their forthcoming meeting in April. He did not say whether gasoline will cost more in Mexico.

After closing the work of the Pan-American Congress of Petroleum Engineers, Diaz Serrano said that in the near future buses in the valley of Mexico will use gasoline mixed with alcholol to decrease emission of polluting gases. He said that this type of fuel is in the experimental stage but will soon be used in the valley of Mexico.

PRI CANDIDATE MURDERED 'POSSIBLY FOR POLITICAL MOTIVES'

PA231215 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0408 GMT 21 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Chetumal, Mexico, 20 Mar (EFE)--Judicial Polic reported here today that an Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] candidate has been murdered, possibly for political motives. Serapio Flota Nass, former deputy, former peasant leader and candidate for a seat in the Federal Chamber of Deputies, was murdered Monday night in the town of Bachalar, near Chetumal. Police have not discarded the possibility of political motives for the murder of the PRI candidate, although so far the investigation has not established anything specific.

PAPER REPORTS MILITARYMEN'S DOCUMENT TO CELAM CONFERENCE

PA262017 Mexico City EL HERALDO DE MEXICO in Spanish 19 Mar 79 pp 1, 14A PA

[Article by Jose J. Castellanos]

[Text] While in the universities and in some news media hatred and envy are encouraged through the spread of dialectical materialism, the threat to peace does not lie in a world war but in the self-destruction of the nations that are eaten up by the cancer of class struggle. The above is part of the fundamental thesis of a confidential document that militarymen issued to the Latin American bishops last month. EL HERALDO DE MEXICO has obtained a copy of the document in which the militarymen justify their intervention in the political life of the nations of the continent.

The military authors of the document warn of the danger of guerrillas, provoked by the enemies of the fatherland and of its values. "This was is mainly promoted by the interests of communist ideology, which bases its action against society on dialectical materialism, pits men against each other by taking advantage of a situation of injustice and proposes as the only solution socialism or communism, which have been repeatedly condemned by the Church."

"This communist action," the document adds, "is only aimed at ending the nations' domestic peace. Because of this, it forces us to carry out, more than an external action of combatting other peoples, the task of controlling revolt."

The document is mainly composed of quotes from speeches by Pope Paul VI, the Second Vatican Council--principally Gaudium Et Spes--Saint Thomas Aquinas and other authors who recognize the need of having militarymen in society and their role of defending the security of nations.

In the document, the militarymen see themselves as promoters of peace. They condemn abuses of power but warn that the enemies of peace, both guerrillas and ideologists, are trying to end the military society [as published]. The guerrillas try to do so through assassinations, kidnapings and intimidation while the ideologists try to do so through propaganda "that presents us as 'savages,' disavowing our function of service."

As a result of this campaign, they add, many people believe that our presence in political life is harmful. "Specific cases of this have been those in which, inspired by the common good, the military forces have had to seize power and this action is then seen as a violation of essential human rights."

On referring to the condemnation of the ideology of national security in the work document of CELAM [Latin American Bishops Conference] III, the authors of the document indicate that "the work document does not clarify that there are some cases, and perhaps the majority of them, which are not motivated by power but by the defense of the national values and the good of the social community and that the violent exercise of power is sometimes necessary to guarantee them."

The authors cite as "rules" of action for militarymen in society points of the document Dignitatis Humanae. In the first place, they indicate that "the rule of full freedom in society must be observed. According to it, maximum freedom must be given to man and it should be restricted only when it is necessary and to the extent that it is necessary."

As a second rule, they quote the following words from the same document: "Where for reasons of the common good the exercise of rights is temporarily restricted, freedom should be reestablished as soon as possible when circumstances have changed."

U.S. CONGRESSMEN ARRIVE TO CLARIFY TREATY POINTS

PA240205 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Dissatisfied with the lack of understanding of certain stipulations of the 1977 treaty, five members of the U.S. House of Representatives are again visiting our country. Republican Congressman Robert Bauman said in an interview upon his arrival at Howard Air Force Base in the Canal Zone that the note Panama had sent to the United States 2 days ago had been rejected and declared unsatisfactory by Congressman John Murphy. Murphy said during a news conference in Washington yesterday that Panama's answers in the note are not satisfactory.

Bauman said that a meeting had been requested with the officials of the Panama Canal Authority in order between now and Tuesday--the date on which work will begin on the draft of the treaty implementation legislation by the U.S. Congress--to reach a better understanding between the two sides on the points in question.

According to Bauman, one of the points in Panama's note deals with retroactive payment of taxes. Bauman said that Panama has no right to demand this payment and that, if a favorable agreement is reached in this respect, it will be considered appropriately in the legislation.

The members of the U.S. House of Representatives who arrived last night are David Bowen, David Bonior, Joseph Wyatt, Michael Lowry, and Robert Bauman.

'Angry' Departure

PA270333 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 26 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Four of the five members of the U.S. Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives are returning to Washington angry because they have not been received by the highest ranking officials of the Panamanian Government.

Robert Bauman, representative from Maryland, said yesterday that only one of the five members of the U.S. Congress who arrived in our country on Thursday, Democratic Congressman David Bowen, had been invited by President Aristides Royo and Gabriel Lewis Galindo, director general of the Canal Authority, to discuss topics which the U.S. Congress considers to be not quite clear before drafting the implementation legislation of the 1977 treaties.

Bauman said that he was surprised by the press communique published on Saturday in which he was cited as saying that he was very pleased with the agreements reached. The Republican congressman said that he never attended, nor was he invited to attend, the meeting during which the agreements were allegedly reached.

I learned of the content of the press communique when I read it in the newspaper, because I was not consulted before or after it was drafted, Bauman said. He added: We will return to Washington and we will draft the most severe legislation ever written.

Asked how many congressmen were opposed to the treaty, Congressman Bauman said that a survey conducted last month by Congressman Hansen of Idaho revealed that 120 congressmen opposed the treaty and that he himself had managed, in 4 days, to win over 54 more opponents which, the Republican stated, indicates that a great number of the 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives are opposed to the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The press communique published on Saturday was issued by the International Communications Agency office at the U.S. Embassy.

An ACAN-EFE report dated today cited a source close to the Panamanian Government as having said that the representatives of the U.S. Congress had arrived in Panama without prior notice or an invitation and had demanded immediate attention.

'ISOLATED ACTS' OF TERRORISM REPORTED

Police Post Bombing

PA250154 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1745 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Text] An incendiary bomb was thrown by an unknown individual at the police post located under the overpass near the University of Panama. The bomb started a small fire which had no serious consequences. The bomb was thrown from a moving car and crashed against one of the columns of the overpass, according to police. The fire occurred when the bomb fell on several empty paint cans approximately 10 meters from the police post.

Two traffic policemen were on duty when the bomb was thrown. Neither of them was hurt. Authorities said that the car in which the attackers were traveling managed to escape without being identified.

Car Explosion

PA261526 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1503 GMT 26 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Panama City, 26 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--One person died and another was injured when a car exploded early Monday morning while traveling along the Transisthmian Highway, which links Panama City with the city of Colon.

According to preliminary reports broadcast over Radio Cadena Exitosa, the dead man is Ernesto Gonzalez Aviles and the wounded man's name in Harmodio Almanza. A third person in the vehicle was not identified by the authorities.

National Guard (G-2) security agents are investigating the cause of the explosion which, because of its characteristics, caused great alarm in the Miraflores, Club X and Villa Caceres communities.

This was the second explosion in the past 48 hours. An incendiary bomb was hurled by unidentified persons at a traffic police booth in this capital early Saturday morning. The explosion caused a small fire that had no major consequences. The automobile in which the perpetrators were traveling succeeded in escaping.

Government and Justice Minister Adolfo Ahumada told ACAN-EFE that this had been an "isolated act" of terrorism of minor importance, but that it was being thoroughly investigated.

BUSINESSMEN CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT FOR 'POLITICKING'

PA240238 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 23 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpts] Carlos Alberto Hoffman, president of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives, said this afternoon at the inauguration of the yearly conference of business executives CADE-79 that the Panamanian Government has dedicated its first 6 months in office to partisan political activities instead of working on national problems.

[Begin Hoffman recording] The private sector cannot accept the oft-repeated theory that it is up to us to reactivate the economy, and that the private sector is responsible for the economic slowdown we are experiencing. For years the private sector's contribution to the domestic gross product has been the backbone of our country's development. We did not come here today to criticize legislative measures that slowed the development impulse of the sector, but we consider it prudent to make two important points. First, the private sector cannot assume sole responsibility for the reactivation of the economy and miraculously solve problems that are aggravated by the 100,000 persons who are presently unemployed. Second,reactivation of the private sector will in great part depend on the government's ability to correct its mistakes and in its ability to visualize the motivating measures which must be taken to accelerate the reactivation.

The problem has remained unchanged during the first 6 months of the present government because, instead of applying all its efforts to economic reactivation, it has been politicking. This may well be due to the democratic reopening, which we all welcome, but unfortunately this has resulted in the neglect of national problems in favor of the problem of partisan registry. I wish to emphasize that in other countries there is already talk of another recession in 1980. We can only confront such a recession if we take appropriate measures now to provide incentives for investments, to consolidate present investments and to correct and eliminate effects that are now holding us to a slow return to eceonomic normality. This will be possible only with a government that governs.

PDC ACCUSES GOVERNMENT OF USING COERCION IN REGISTRATION

PA261400 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 23 Mar 79 pp 1, 8B PA

[Christian Democratic Party communique issued 22 March 1979]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] declares to the public that it has obtained proof that registration of official parties is being conducted with government resources and through the notorious coercive action of public officials by way of threats and dismissals that has reached the heights of affecting even their relatives with intimidations. We affirm that this constitutes a collective violation of the human rights of the Panamanian people and a regression to the political vices condemned by the citizenry.

In a communique dated 17 January 1979, the PDC stressed that the government's plan to democratize the nation pursues its own perpetuation in power. This plan, we declared, seeks to project an international image while at the same time neutralizing mounting popular discontent.

The registration of official parties, with its sequel of abuse and violations, confirms the PDC's decision to abstain from the registration process in the present circumstances and, in view of the nonexistence of the necessary legal instruments, to prevent the formation of progovernment parties on the basis of coercion and to guarantee the political rights of opposition parties. Political imposition by an authoritarian regime in "democratic" guise, using public posts as political gifts, no doubt will lead government officials to adopt a dual political affiliation in order to maintain both their principles and their source of income. We warn that the government's political sectarianism is further deepening the national crisis insofar as it is increasing the mistrust and insecurity that stand in the way of the republic's moral, political and economic reconstruction.

[Dated] Panama, 22 March 1979
[Signed] Christian Democratic Party
Guillermo A. Cochez, Jr. secretary general.

AGRARIAN LABOR PARTY PREPARES FOR REGISTRATION

PA261322 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Mar 79 p 15 PA

[Agrarian Labor Party communique issued on 21 March 1979]

[Text] The present situation in this land regarding each citizen's right to elect and be elected, in accordance with the libertarian and social interest principles of the Agrarian Labor Party [PLA], the central national organ of the PLA, following a lengthy debate on the 15th of this month, approved the following: [sentence as published]

1. That the general mobilization and restructuring of the party's political cadres will be initiated with a view to its future registration;

2. That the historic position of the PLA as a mass movement has been one of permanent struggle for the true and effective operation of a democratic government system in our republic;

3. That the PLA, inspired by an essentially democratic doctrine, is comprised of men and women aware of their responsibility before the fatherland; that it always remains open to all dialog and to all ideas to achieve our objective. We want at all times to maintain our independent criterion as human beings and as a group. Since we are authentic, we cannot participate in extremes. We consider that whatever is imported almost always makes the nation's everyday life more acute;

4. That the PLA is sure that youthful units will come forward to invigorate the ranks of the party;

5. That the political system now in force has been unable to effectively consolidate government plans or to overcome the institutional crisis that is affecting our country's situation;

6. The PLA, as stated by party founder Don Heraclio Barletta Bustamante (may he rest in peace), has never had masters but rather is a party that operates on the basis of ideas inspired by the interests of the fatherland, on honesty and work, the postulates of all good citizens; that we must all march united, equal and loyal to the fatherland and the party.

[Signed] Azael Vargas, secretary general, 21 Mar 79

SANDINIST MEMBER VISITS NATION SEEKING SOLIDARITY

PA261630 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1110 GMT 22 Mar 79 PA

[Interview conducted by Euclides Fuentes Arroyo with Sandinist National Liberation Front member "Rodriguez" in Panama on 21 March 1979; broadcast over the "Sobre el Terreno" program--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Rodriguez, could you tell us why you are in Panama?

[Answer] We are in Panama basically to ask for militant and effective solidarity from the Panamanian democratic and revolutionary sectors and the people in general. Right now--I mean, in the past few days, weeks--the Nicaraguan revolution has been threatened with U.S. intervention, which has taken on really alarming characteristics.

In our country, the revolutionary, struggling forces have been able to develop such strength that we have no doubt that at no time and under no circumstances will they be defeated. We have been able to overcome problems. We have made considerable advancement. Sandinist unity is an instance of such advancement. However, the situation is not portrayed that way abroad. On the contrary, it seems as if the struggle had waned in Nicaragua, as if the Nicaraguan people were tired, as if the Nicaraguan revolutionary movement were incapable of finding an effective solution to national problems. This is no more than effective manipulation of the news, by the Americans for the benefit of their selfish interests, their desire to dominate our people.

The struggle has made a noteworthy military advancement in Nicaragua since, through Sandinist unity, an unprecedented army has been formed in Latin America, and we have been able to coherently direct this army toward an objective, against our enemy, with an unprecedented technical capability. And this is no chance occurrence. It is not the work of one architect, but the work of all our people because those who really comprise this army are people's fighters who have been massively joining this army. The sustenance of this army, its food, care, and support, stems precisely from the community, the neighborhoods, and the localities. This is what permits us to state categorically that the Nicaraguan revolutionary movement has not been defeated by a long shot but, on the contrary, is preparing to wage a decisive fight in the process of our revolution.

We are worried that in Panama, as in Costa Rica and Honduras, the people and the progressive, democratic and revolutionary sectors are seeing an inaccurate, distorted view of what is going on in Nicaragua. This is done, of course, with the intention of creating a smokescreen to permit the imperialist maneuver that essentially consists of retaining the National Guard because it is the force or guarantee that will allow U.S. imperialism and the most reactionary sectors in Nicaragua to establish or maintain their domination over our people. Because the National Guard today is an unpopular, hated and despised institution that our people are fighting, the only way that imperialism can retain the National Guard--and this is its basic interest--is to have the National Guard replace the, let us say, defeated administration--because the incumbent Somoza government has been defeated by the people--and to portray it to the people as the solution to the problem; to establish a government which, with a hidden hand, will try to crush the revolutionary movement, isolate it or separate it from the people; and, with a somewhat longer arm abroad, to plunge the Nicaraguan people into a fog that will permit it to carry out this maneuver without any great difficulty on an international level.

You all know abut historical solidarity with our people because in the struggle of 1927, solidarity with General Sandino shook the world. During this entire time Nicaragua has been known throughout the world for the liberation struggle that it has waged for such a long time, and now this struggle is definitely trying to achieve our liberation.

Therefore, in summary, the reason that I came to Panama is mainly to alert the Panamanian people that manipulation, pressure and blackmail by imperialism, in collusion with the activities of the reactionary sectors in each country, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama, will try to isolate, and plunge Nicaragua into, let us say, a fog and facilitate the maneuver, the unpopular activities by U.S. imperialism togetherwith the country's most reactionary sectors.

[Question] Comrade Rodriguez, you have mentioned a report that was already known--that what is being planned is a Somoza guard coup d'etat against Somoza to continue with the same regime that the Somoza dynasty began a long time ago. What action would the Sandinist National Liberation Front, vanguard of the Nicaraguan people, take if the coup d'etat to establish Somozism without Somoza is staged?

[Answer] We are convinced that no government that is not acknowledged by the Sandinist front can establish itself in Nicaragua. We definitely think that any government resulting from a coup d'etat or an imperialist conspiracy in Nicaragua would not have any possibility of establishing or stabilizing itself. Our response has already been given: Sandinist unity. I think it is a forceful response because it means (?multiplying) not by three since there are three factions. It would not really be by 3 because that would not just mean unification but multiplication--perhaps by 9, perhaps by 27--of the whole potential of the military and political forces that represent the three Sandinist factions. All this would be directed firmly and forcefully against any government that is not the government wanted by the people, popular power, and which, in this case, would have to be recognized by the Sandinist front. We are on a war footing and we are determined to make any sort of sacrifice, even in the hypothetical case of an invasion by "Marines" in Nicaragua, which we do not think will occur. However, even if it did, we and our people are determined to immediately begin, if necessary, a liberation war, even if that would lead us to experiencing Vietnam-style consequences. We are ready to do it because much water has flowed under the bridge and we believe that there is no turning back.

[Fuentes Arroyo] Thank you.

BRIEFS

NEW WORK SCHEDULE--A Cabinet council this morning decided that as of 26 March most public employees and officials will work from 0900 to 1700. The change was approved in view of the inadequate public transportation system. A few government offices will continue with their present schedule. [Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 79 PA]

CASA DE LAS AMERICAS VISITOR--Cuban intellectual Roberto Fernandez Retamar, director of the CASA DE LAS AMERICAS magazine, is visiting in Panama to deliver several lectures on literature. His lectures are being sponsored by the Panamanian National Institute of Culture. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 79 PA]

COSTA RICA

IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TO DECIDE ON CARDENAL ENTRY

PA270243 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey said this afternoon that the Immigration Department is considering the possibility of revoking Father Ernesto Cardenal's permission to enter Costa Rica. This action, he said, is being considered because Father Cardenal has been making statements abroad that are injurious to Costa Rica.

If the Immigration Department decides that Cardenal's statements have injured Costa Rica's image, permission to return to Costa Rica will be revoked.

Minister Echeverria said he regretted that such action had to be taken, but that the matter was in the hands of the Immigration Department, which would make a just decision in this respect. Echeverria said that Cardenal was not an asylee because he has not requested political asylum. What he has been granted is an entry permit that can be annulled, thus prohibiting his return to Costa Rica where, up to the present, he has had freedom to carry out his revolutionary campaign, Minister Echeverria indicated.

EL SALVADOR

FARN GIVES REASONS FOR KIDNAPING FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN

PA270427 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 2110 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Communique No 4 released by the Armed Forces of National Resistance [FARN] to the world and to the Salvadoran people]

[Excerpts] The government of Gen Romero has staged before the world a unique and shameless maneuver regarding the case of Mr Matsumoto. It has sought to make it appear as if our organization assassinated the Japanese businessman by knifing him in the back. The general, a killer at heart, wants to make it appear as if our organization uses the same sadistic and cruel methods employed by the National Guard and police in dealing with the people. The government's attempting to portray a macabre image of our actions to disguise its disinterest in foreign businessmen and its joy at keeping some 100 political prisoners, reported as missing, in prison.

The hostage's family offered only $40,000 for his release, which also revealed a lack of interest on the part of the multinational company for its representatives, as if we did not know that the business has approximately $.5 million [as heard] in capital and our demands did not represent even one one-thousandth of that capital.

In the meantime, General Romero hatched alongside [word indistinct] the military operation that they were going to mount to search for Mr Matsumoto in order not to yield to our demands. They mobilized vast National Guard and police troops throughout San Salvador. When the National Guard reached the place where Mr Matsumoto was being held, FARN members escaped, taking the businessman with them. Unfortunately, however, the vehicle in which they were traveling was ordered to halt by the National Guard and a clash ensued in which Mr Matsumoto received a bullet wound in the back during the exchange of fire.

We say unfortunately because, owing to this incident, we did not achieve any of our four-point demands. We are absolutely certain that the only possibility of getting our demands met is to keep our hostage alive. This shows why we would not want to kill him, as the government has tried to make world opinion believe, saying we knifed him in the back. On the very day of the kidnaping we had no reason to commit such an unheard-of and macabre action, which exists only in the minds of the members of the Psychological Operations Committee of the National Guard.

Furthermore, the government has not admitted that we were the ones who, out of respect for the religious beliefs of his family and because security problems we might have faced no longer existed, later sent a sketch of the place where the Japanese businessman was buried.

The government of General Romero again imposed a gag on the press and mounted the new maneuver that we have denounced and unmasked before the conscience of the world, rejecting everything stated by the Romero's government, which is mired in corruption and remains in power by terrorizing our people.

As long as popular organizations in El Salvador remain gagged and as long as there is an attempt to isolate the country in order to conceal genocide, we will feel obliged to kidnap foreign businessmen as means of publicizing Salvadoran realities. We will stop kidnaping them when the people have access to minimal democratic freedoms.

This is designed to achieve an understanding of the political motives of our actions and to expose the Salvadoran Government's talk of terrorism. It must be understood that these actions are supported by the people and are not the work of bandits or villainous criminals. They represent a last resort, the use of violence in a situation imposed by General Romero's government.

We also carry out actions of this type in order to make transnational enterprises return to the Salvadoran people a portion of the juicy profits that they obtain in this country through exploitation. However, we know how to discriminate, above all in the kinds of demands that we make. That is why, when we kidnap representatives of the United States, Germany, Japan and Israel, we will make political demands, because of the sustenance they give dictatorships in our country and the political commitments that they maintain with those governments.

GUATEMALA

ENERGY SECRETARIAT SEEKING MEXICAN PETROLEUM

PA270312 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 27 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Guatemalan President Gen Lucas Garcia said that regarding the petroleum problem, officials of the Mining, Hydrocarbons and Nuclear Energy Secretariat are now in Mexico to speak with Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo on the sale of petroleum to Guatemala.

Gen Lucas Garcia said that it has been revealed that the Mexicans are faced with a difficult situation concerning petroleum, but that in about 5 months they could grant the Guatemalan petition for the supply of fuel. The commission is engaged in direct talks with the Mexican president, and a satisfactory arrangement is expected. In this manner, Guatemala's fuel supply problem could be solved.

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON REPORTED U.S. AID SUSPENSION

PA261327 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 26 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Authorized government spokesmen have reported that there is no official news concerning the U.S. Government's refusal to lend military aid to Guatemala. It was reported that aid was suspended under the previous administration; thus, it would be nothing new. However, so far no official communique has been received from the United States, it was asserted.

FUR REGISTRATION VIEWED AS 'DEMOCRATIC OPENING'

PA262318 Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 19 Mar 79 p 6 PA

[Text] The registration of the United Revolutionary Front--FUR--is the best proof of the democratic opening announced by Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas during his electoral campaign and show that he is a man of his word on the registration of political parties regardless of their tendencies as long as they fall within the Constitution, Carlos Toledo Vielmann, newsman and public relations secretary of the presidency, has declared.

Many persons thought that the party would not be registered since it is a democratic leftist party. However, it obtained registration, which is considered necessary and useful for a better understanding among the various sectors of citizens. At the same time, it offers Guatemalans a new political alternative in the elections--candidates who share their ideological views--Toledo Vielmann stated.

With the registration of the new party, no party of the political trends legally recognized by the Constitution is excluded. There are parties of the far right, center left, nationalist and other ideologies. In other words, the right and left are represented by diverse parties, the official noted.

NICARAGUA

U.S. DIPLOMAT ACCUSED OF 'MEDDLING' IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS

PA270005 Managua NOVEDADES in Spanish 20 Mar 79 p 14 PA

[Text] With an extraordinary determination to remain on the floor--which probably is customary for a guard--a silent figure leaning against the doors of the Chamber of Deputies witnessed with marked gestures of approval the speech of a representative of the Conservative Party suggesting amendments to the Constitution, some of which were derived from those that President Somoza had announced sometime ago.

There would not be anything wrong with the presence of this person--who under different circumstances could have been a tourist--who often came to the National Palace to find out about democracy in action or simply to corroborate reports of damages done by the communist hordes which, in August of last year, invaded our most sacred hall.

On this occasion, this person had a very different mission, to personally find out if his proteges were making every effort to impress the audience with a speech which certainly was promoted by the same man, who was trying to find out if his instructions and suggestions were being carried out.

We are referring, of course, to John Martin, member of that unforgettable group of adventurers who arrived in Nicaragua aboard the Vesta to see their chief assume the presidency.

Assigned to the U.S. Embassy, the diplomatic mission of a friendly country, Martin has in recent months taken on attributes beyond his duties as observer. Not satisfied with reading the newspaper or listening to records about what the conservatives are doing, which he certainly received, Martin, with a stern expression, has assumed the pose of an intellectual to ascertain if his mouthpiece is faithfully interpreting the propaganda of his master according to instructions. This is an interventionist operation going beyond his duties, which supposedly involve routine bureaucracy in the administrative machine of the office for which he works.

To make a comparison in similar conditions, we have never seen members of other diplomatic missions exerting pressure during public debate in which Nicaraguans exercise rights guaranteed by our status as a free, sovereign and independent country.

Martin has been recently seen participating as a mediator in activities that have all been checked as violating our country's right of self-determination.

That is why when you do not find Mr Martin in his office, you can certainly find him at brother Jose Esteban Gonzalez' office or at the roomy installation where the editorials of LA PRENSA are written, where he has a strong voice.

In a recent report of the so-called Human Rights Commission, Mr Martin's pressure was felt and even transmitted by news media as he assumed the posture of judge while grievances for agitation were being expressed at the enterprise managed by Jose Esteban Gonzalez.

Martin was guest of honor at the Camino Real Hotel for the christening of the so-called Conservative Democratic Party, and there is a possibility that all drafts of speeches passed over his desk before being made.

It is time we reveal that the members of this same party are encouraging intervention in our country. They have changed the party's name, but not its procedures.

The interventionist aggression against Nicaragua, diplomatically as well as militarily, has alerted the Nicaraguan people against this meddling in our affairs, which should be solved by Nicaraguans.

FSLN STEALS SURGICAL EQUIPMENT, MEDICINE FROM CLINIC

PA261603 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1549 GMT 26 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Managua--A Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] squad today assaulted a local clinic, stealing surgical equipment and medicines. A little after 0500, 1100 GMT, eight armed men entered the San Pablo clinic in Managua, held the personnel at gunpoint, went into the operating room and took all equipment used for major and minor surgery. They also took a large quantity of medicine.

The clinic's patients, many of them in postoperative care, had to be evacuated because the guerrillas said they had left bombs in the building.

Several witnesses said that the FSLN needed the surgical equipment and medicine for a clandestine hospital.

POLISH PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ CONTINUES VISIT

Marti Memorial Ceremony

FL262124 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2102 GMT 26 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Today at noon in the Jose Marti Plaza de la Revolucion in this capital Piotr Jaroszewicz, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Poland, laid a floral wreath in honor of the national hero [Jose Marti]. Juan Almeida Bosque, vice president of the Cuban Council of State, accompanied the Polish chairman and his entourage in the ceremony, at which the Revolutionary Armed Forces General Staff band played.

After the Cuban and Polish national anthems were played, Jaroszewicz went to the foot of the Marti monument and placed the floral wreath. Following this, the Polish delegation went to the Palace of the Revolution, where the official talks began between the delegations of Cuba and the People's Republic of Poland.

Piotr Jaroszewicz is visiting Cuba for the first time at the invotation of our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Exchange of Awards

FL270129 [Editorial Report FL] At 0027 GMT on 27 March, Havana Domestic Television Service begins live color coverage of the award ceremony at CUBANACAN's protocol hall at which Piotr Jaroszewicz, chairman of the People's Republic of Poland Council of Ministers, is to receive the Jose Marti Medal. Coverage opens with Fidel Castro and other leaders of the Cuban Government and PCC and Piotr Jaroszewicz and his delegation entering the protocol hall. The honor guard then marches in and the Cuban and Polish national anthems are played at 0030 GMT. Cuban leaders seen as the camera pans are: Juan Almeida, Ramiro Valdes Osvaldo Dorticos, Armando Hart, Sergio del Valle, Arcia Frias, Jose Ramon Machado Ventura and Arnaldo Milian--all Politburo members.

At 0031 GMT Blas Roca goes to the microphone and begins reading from a prepared text announcing the presentation of the Jose Marti award to the Polish leader. Blas Roca finishes speaking at 0047 GMT, saying that Fidel Castro will present Jaroszewicz the award. Fidel Castro then walks over to Jaroszewicz and pins the medal on his chest, embraces him and goes back over to his side of the hall. Piotr Jaroszewicz then goes to the microphone and at 0048 GMT, reading from a prepared text, expresses his thanks for the award. In ending his remarks at 0059 GMT he states that the Polish Government has decided to present Fidel with the Great Bard [Barda] Order of Merit and goes over and present it to him, embraces Fidel and returns to his side of the hall.

At 0101 GMT Fidel goes to the microphone to express his thanks for the award. He ends his remarks at 0108 GMT, at which time the honor guard marches out of the hall. Television announcer Manolo Ortega comes on the air to explain the ceremony that just took place. Television coverage ends at 0110 GMT

U.S. SURGEON GENERAL ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL261743 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Heading a delegation of physicians, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health and Surgeon General Dr Julius Richmond last night arrived in this capital at the invitation of Cuban Public Health Minister Dr Jose A. Gutierrez Muniz.

The delegation will remain in Cuba 5 days to learn about the development accomplished by Cuban public health following the revolution's triumph. At the Jose Marti International Airport the visitors were received by Dr Gutierrez Muniz, other Cuban officials and Lyle Lane, chief of the U.S. interest section in Cuba.

MINSAP Briefing

FL262334 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 26 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Julius Richmond, U.S. assistant secretary for health, was received today at the Public Health Ministry [MINSAP] by the head of that ministry, Dr Jose A. Gutierrez Muniz. Others participating at the meeting were the rest of the members of the U.S. delegation that arrived in Cuba several hours ago, and for the Cuban side, vice ministers and other members of the MINSAP Council Directorate. The Cuban public health minister gave an extensive briefing on health services in our country, its organization and structure and the main problems and their prospects for solution. After studying the exchange of impressions with the Cuban scientists for three hours, the U.S. assistant secretary of health told newsmen that he was very impressed with the warm welcome he received in Cuba.

EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE TREATY CRITICIZED

FL261323 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 26 Mar 79 FL

[Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry "Combatants Political Information" program commentary]

[Text] Egypt and Israel today will sign, under James Carter's close supervision, the so-called separate peace treaty which was negotiated in 1978 at Camp David. Following North American travels in the Middle East and continuous comings and goings in that region by U.S. citizens, which included the President himself and his top secretaries and advisers, it appears that agreement has been reached to finalize the ominous plan.

The signing, scheduled for today at the White House, will take place after a number of trips by Zionists and Egyptians to the United States, among them the traitor Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and the foreign and defense ministers of the two countries. It is no secret that this peace treaty signing is marked by the dirtiest maneuvers, which include Yankee offers of millions of dollars to As-Sadat and Begin, promises of arms shipments, construction of military bases, and so forth. As can be noted, the agreement will be finalized as a result of bribery, the ambitions of some and the strategic objectives of others.

Israel has reiterated that it will never withdraw from occupied Arab territories. The only portion it will give up is the Egyptian Sinai, in exchange for Cairo's commitment to guarantee oil supplies for no less than 9 years. In Jerusalem and other areas the Zionist policy of establishing military outposts and Israeli colonial settlements has continued, and at the same time a brutal repression is conducted against the Arab population. Under the guise of an alleged administrative autonomy, Israel pledges not to colonize the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip but does not give a date on which it will withdraw from those territories.

As-Sadat traveled to Washington to meet with Begin and Carter for the signing of the peace treaty while the Israeli troops continue their artillery barrages and brutal attacks against the Palestinian camps in the southern part of Lebanon, a country which Israel brazenly invaded not too long ago.

Doubtlessly, the Egyptian-Israeli-North American plot will result in grave consequences for the Arab nation and new dangers of tension and war, but in the long run the peoples will know how to avenge themselves for the betrayal.

VALDES MAIN SPEAKER AT SECURITY ORGANS ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Description of Event

FL250055 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Radio and Television Service in Spanish at 0027 GMT on 25 March begins live color coverage of the main ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of the security organs, held in Havana City's Karl Marx Theater.

Television coverage opens with the camera panning the audience. The curtain on the stage has not been raised. An unidentified television announcer sets the scene of the ceremony, awaiting the start of the commemoration. At 0031 GMT the curtain is raised as the audience stands and applauds. The camera then pans the members on the dais. Fidel Castro, Sergio del Valle, Juan Almeida, and Ramiro Valdes are seen. The lights in the theater are then dimmed. A spotlight is then shined on the shield of the state security organs as taps are played. The National Poet Nicolas Guillen goes to the podium and reads a poem honoring the fallen heroes. The lights then come back on at 0034 GMT and the national anthem is played.

Television announcer Manolo Ortega goes to the podium and announces the ceremony to take place. He says that presiding over this ceremony are Fidel Castro, other members of the Politburo, Secretariat and Central Committee, vice ministers, invited foreign dignitaries, leaders of mass organizations, relatives of martyrs of the security organs, and members and vanguards of the security organs. The lights are once again dimmed in the theater and Pioneers put on a skit showing how the security forces defend the nation. At 0041 the Heroic Guerrilla March is played as a Pioneer color guard and other Pioneers march into the theater. A Pioneer then goes to the podium and reads a letter to Fidel praising him and the work the state security forces do in defense of the country. At 0045 GMT the Pioneers present Fidel with a framed plaque of the state security organs. Then the Pioneer concludes her presentation at 0047 GMT and the Heroic Guerrilla March is played as the Pioneers march out of the theater.

On the red backdrop on the dais the state security organs shield is in the center with the announcement "20th anniversary of the founding of the state security organs" in white letters to the viewer's left, and to the right of the shield the slogan "the state security organs are the firm bulwark of the socialist fatherland."

Manolo Ortega goes back to the podium to state that the preceding presentation read by the Pioneer was written under the direction of National Poet Nicolas Guillen in the name of the people to honor Fidel Castro. Manolo Ortega then introduces at 0047 GMT Ramiro Valdes to make the closing remarks. He is given a standing ovation and begins speaking at 0051 GMT.

Ramiro Valdes Speech

FL250337 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0051 GMT 25 Mar 79 FL

[Speech by Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes, PCC Politburo member, at the 20th anniversary of the founding of the security organs at Havana City's Karl Marx Theater on 25 March 1979--live]

[Text] Comrades on the dais; relatives of heroes who have fallen in the fulfillment of their duty; dear comrade chiefs, officers and combatants of the state security organs; comrades:

It will be difficult to try to sum up the ideas, remembrances and the emotions which this anniversary awakens in each one of us, just as we are sure it happens in each one of you. First of all, we think that this generation of revolutionaries has had an immense privilege which is only enjoyed on very few occasions, the privilege to have been able to write part of the story of the fatherland, to have been able to contribute to its definitive victory and to live to commemorate it and to be able to pay homage to the brilliant and heroic work of the revolution and the people. We understand the intimate satisfaction, honor and legitimate pride which the comrades can feel today, who over these years have dedicated all of their energies to the work of our state security organs. But we know that above these just feelings, the modesty and revolutionary spirit which has always characterized them, that with all your heart you dedicate this 20th anniversary to the brave and combative people who have given their invincible effort and who have been the soul of all of our achievements, and above all to those comrades who cannot be with us today because they fell fighting the enemy in the streets of the cities, in the mountains, on the sea or guarding the coasts, or in the air defending our planes with their blood, or far from Cuba, nobly fulfilling the sacred duty of soldiers of the revolution in other lands. Let our first words and our emotional remembrances on this anniversary be to those our unforgettable heroes, symbols of these 20 years of struggle and sacrifice. The date we commemorate today is closely linked to the 20 years of the triumph of the revolution, which we commemorated less than three months ago. It can be said that following a hard and costly struggle, just having achieved a popular victory over the Batista tyranny, a victory which imperialism and the CIA tried to frustrate at the final moment by their attempt at a military coup d'etat, our revolution and people had to confront the violent class struggle which was unleashed, both internally and externally, by the reactionary forces and the U.S. Government. As is already known, on 2 February 1959, just one month after the triumph of the revolution, the first small pirate plane piloted by a North American citizen arrived in our country trying to carry out an attempt on Comrade Fidel's life.

The Yankee imperialists did not expect that the first great severe measure of the revolution, that the first agrarian reform law, would affect their economic interests. From the first instance they provided refuge and a comfortable base of operations for the fugitive war criminals. Their press campaign, their diplomatic pressure and their growing hostility toward Cuba served to rapidly encourage the old political schemers, the Batista militarymen and the Trujillo elements, in their counterrevolutionary plans. Because of the defeat of the rightist elements which initially had a part in the revolutionary government and the consolidation of the people's government represented by Fidel and the rebel army, in a very short time they decided on the policy to destroy the revolution at any price.

The Yankee rulers did not wait for socialism to exist in Cuba. It was enough for them that there were true freedoms, it was enough for them that there was dignity, it was enough for them that there was no longer a mercenary army, it was enough for them that their ambassador's imperial arrogance was stopped, the initial measures of elemental justice which were adopted by the revolution were enough for them to determine that Cuba should be crushed. Surprised and irritated by the emergence of a revolutionary regime which did not ask them permission to do what they thought advisable, fearful of the example of Cuba and profundly filled with an incurable scorn for the peoples of Latin America, the imperialists believed that no obstacle could be placed in the way of their reactionary designs.

They blindly believed in their economic power, their political influence, the penetration of their anticommunist campaigns, their influence over the exploitive and rightist sectors in Cuba, and lastly, in the role of their special services, first of all the CIA and their own military forces. Our humble and working people in this way had to rise up and face a true life-or-death war in which not only their rights and hopes for a better future would be decided but also their own survival.

The first duty, the first obligation and the first responsibility of every revolution and its leadership is to know how to defend itself. The most bitter and bloody actions in history are those which teach us the terrible price that has to be paid by people for a triumphant revolution. From the days of the Paris commune to Chile, the exploiters and the reactionary forces have eloquently shown that the people, once turned into a power, have to learn how to smash with an iron fist all attempts by their opponents to return to power.

Today we can ask ourselves what would have happened to Cuba if once again the henchmen, the assassins who escaped justice, the bandits who committed horrendous crimes against teachers and peasants and all of that plague of terrorists and counterrevolutionaries who were filled with hatred and anger toward our people had once again had access to the government to oppress the people. What incalculable number of lives had to be uprooted so that our people would never resign themselves to bear their odious yoke. What would have happened to our workers and peasants, who today are owners of their factories and their lands, if the exploiters and their overseers had returned on the shoulders of the mercenaries and Yankee marines. Not even the most active imaginations could have imagined what this would have meant.

The state security organs emerged so that the past would remain past and so that the future would become the present. They emerged from the humble, rebellious and generous heart of our people, just as our rebel army emerged. just as the national revolutionary militias were forged, just as our modern armed forces developed and just as our people gather together in their combat-hardened mass organizations to support and defend the revolution. These are expressions of the one and only process. From the first days of the triumph in 1959, already forseeing the long and hard struggle which awaited us, the embryo of our security organs was being formed in the heart of the rebel army. The various intelligence corps which had been forming in various institutions became subordinated to and shortly joined these organs. This unification gives the start, the date which we commemorate today. The just criterion was used that a single force should be in charge of the state's security. And the principle was established that only the most honest and firm revolutionaries who were able to march unswervingly on the path of socialism, which was the direction being followed by our process, should be the ones to join it.

The enemy did not give us time to learn what we had to do. We had to organize ourselves and we had to acquire experience in the struggle itself. Starting from the organization which was self-named the White Rose, counterrevolutionary groups started proliferating. The pirate air attacks, the burning of sugarcane fields, the assassination attempts, the first uprisings in the mountains, the sabotages, the divisionist campaigns of the reactionary press, the anticommunist propaganda and terrorism were unleashed with an unexpected force. Dozens of workers, soldiers and revolutionary policemen died, destroyed by the sabotage of the ship La Coubre. The bombs and the fires in stores and industries resulted in many victims. Imperialism began to put their economic aggression into play, and the CIA openly took charge of sustaining, organizing and directing the counterrevolution.

From those first instances an intense and unhalting struggle had to be waged against the counterrevolutionary organizations which were instruments of the CIA. Carrying out many of its plans inside the country, supporting itself on the reactionary sectors, imperialism was able to develop large organizations which covered the whole country. At the beginning they even had more resources than we did since they had at their disposal houses, vehicles, money, modern technical equipment and weapons.

From the first months of the revolution and up to the end of 1965 when this enemy activity was completely eliminated, dozens of organizations were dismantled one by one, and thousands of their members had to answer to the revolutionary tribunals.

It is not possible to recall this struggle without speaking about the work done by the officers who formed the state security section dedicated to combating the counterrevolutionary organizations. In those times many of these comrades, most of them very young, took on dozens of cases at the same time and took care of the work of numerous agents who had infiltrated into the enemy ranks. On occasions they had to keep up constant vigilance over months, following the activities of counterrevolutionary groups which tried to carry out assassination attempts or other plans with serious consequences for our people. On other occasions they had to unhesitatingly make the most daring decisions.

One has to say that many times these comrades risked not only their lives, but also they sacrificed their sleep, their family life and even their health, which broke down under overwork and permanent nervous tension. They had to struggle over long and hard years under these difficult and truly heroic conditions. Our people's gratitude and admiration is extended to all of them in profound recognition on this day.

In the same way and with infinite warmth we salute our intrepid and unselfish agents, for the most part humble workers, who have with profound discipline and spirit of sacrifice carried out the triple task of fulfilling their daily tasks, allegedly working for the counterrevolutionary organizations and groups which they had infiltrated, and at the same time keeping their activities perfectly tracked and controlled and so fulfilling the orders from state security. All the talent, capabilities and energy which exists in the heart of the people was manifested in these comrades. In an effort to carry out their missions they had to show themselves to be disaffected with the revolution and stoically endured the isolation and scorn of their dear comrades and relatives.

It is not difficult to struggle when we feel shoulder to shoulder the presence and encouragement of other revolutionaries. But these comrades had to on many occasions struggle alone while all around them was the moral corruption and the sickening environment of the counterrevolution. Nevertheless their conviction, their morale and spirit of combat was kept intact, in confirmation that the heart of a communist, wherever he might be--far from the homeland or surrounded by enemies--is never alone, because he has the force of his cause and the solidarity of the entire people at his side. [applause]

In addition we have to mention the risky and sleepless work done by the patrol and investigation comrades. Over the years they have fulfilled with bravery and firmness the constant operations of control and capture of counterrevolutionary organizations and agents. They were true shock troops, able to energetically and successfully carry out the most daring missions. As a daring combat security force they filled many heroic pages and on more than one occasion they soaked the homeland's soil with their generous blood. A deserved appreciation and salute is extended on this 20th anniversary to the officers who are (?firm supporters) of the state security, anonymous symbols of the morality, dignity and profoundly human policy of the revolution.

Because our class enemies were defeated two times--first in the field of intelligence and weapons, and later on the field of ideals and morals. Not only were two hostile forces confronting each other, but so were two systems, two ideologies and two concepts which had diametrically opposed views of life. The revolution never lowered itself to use physical violence or torture on a single detainee. The revolution did not hesitate to apply the law with all the necessary vigor in the face of the assault and the brutal crimes being committed aginst our people by imperialism and the reactionary forces. But it can never be said that a counterrevolutionary was struck or beaten or that his dignity was violated, even when dealing with the worst of the killers.

And even more, the revolution knew how to be generous in victory.

It never gave vent to rage or applied the law further than the limits which were strictly necessary in each case. The Interior Ministry and the Revolutionary Armed Forces have been zealous followers of the just and humanitarian war tradition which was forged by our Mambi fighters and our rebel army. These traditions have been especially followed by the combatants of our security organs. They have worked with extraordinary patience and intelligence. As Fidel has pointed out, strict application of the revolutionary principle toward the enemy prisoner obliged us to perfect the work methods, raise the technical, political and intellectual levels. And in the majority of the cases the result was that when the counter-revolutionary faced the reality of his own conduct and saw himself being treated with respect toward his physical integrity and his moral dignity, without morality he crumbled in the undeniable arguments presented by the representatives of the revolution. This explains why our country has been able to take advantage of all reports and elements of judgment and discover every last enemy agent.

In the years of struggle against the tyranny, many revolutionaries who were destroyed by torture kept their morals and convictions intact taking the names of their comrades and the information wanted by the henchmen of that hated regime to their graves. This is the difference between a revolutionary and an imperialist servant, between a patriot and a mercenary. This is the difference between the methods which a country like Cuba can apply and the somber reality which exists in the repressive and Fascist regimes which bloody many peoples in Latin America. This is the difference which separates and will always separate our principles and the realities applied by the organs of investigation, police and jail in the United States itself--despite its idle chatter used by their rulers to speak about an alleged concern in defending human rights. As yesterday in the Sierra [Maestra], the application of this policy of principles morally strengthened us and developed the capabilities and effectiveness of security.

We can recall an example of this. At the end of 1961 one of the main counterrevolutionary organizations fell as a unit into the hands of the state security organs. It was responsible for numerous villanies, sabotages and assassination attempts against the lives of the leaders of the revolution. It was the so-called People's Revolutionary Movement, which of course had nothing to do with the people and even less to do with revolution. Presented on television, their top leaders were asked if they thought it was more difficult to conspire than before. And this was their answer: I do not say that it is difficult; I say that it is impossible. It has been shown to me that for months they have had a file on everything that I have done, and they did not pick me up because they did not want to, because they wanted to get the movement in its entirety. They wanted to get it, and they got it in its entirety. They let me go on for months, and they knew everything I was doing. They have shown me places where I have been, provinces where I have gone, with whom I have met--they have shown me all of this.

But we could quote another example even earlier than this one. In the days of Playa Giron a message was intercepted from the CIA center in the United States which asked what was happening, because they did not see any internal resistance, as they called the fifth columnists which they had encouraged. And shortly thereafter the answering message of the counterrevolutionary terrorist was intercepted reporting that they should not expect any action because 99 percent of the agents were in the hands of the state security. [applause] It is likely that if that radio operator had known that he was also located and would be detained a few days later, instead of that answer, he would have answered his CIA chief that 100 percent of the counterrevolutionaries could not make a move in this country. [laughter and applause].

This fact can give an idea of the efficiency and the rapid development achieved by the state security organs:

At [Playa] Giron, one of the moments of greatest danger for our fatherland, barely two years after its formation, just about all of the internal counterrevolutionary movements had been noted. Of course this would not have been possible without the energetic and effective support of the working people, especially in the cities that of the committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR]. With the militant support of the CDR, security guaranteed that the heroic battles at Playa Giron and Playa Larga would be carried out with a clean and safe rearguard. [applause]

In all of these years, from before the mercenary invasion [Playa Giron] but above all else after its failure, a tenacious and costly struggle had to be waged against the counter-revolutionary bands. At a certain time there were thousands of bandits operating in the six provinces in which the country was divided at that time. In the Escambray [Mountains] alone, which was the focal point, in 1962 the bands went from 42 in March to 79 in September. In that region, from the first operations up to the time in 1965 when the last bandit was captured, more than 2,000 counterrevolutionary elements were captured or killed. Close to 300 revolutionary combatants gave their lives in this long battle, and many peasants, workers, teachers such as Conrado Benitez, and young literacy campaign workers such as Manuel Ascunce, fell victim to these loathsome crimes.

The imperialists supplied weapons to these bands with the ridiculous idea that the method of struggle which was effective in the hands of the revolution could serve as the instrument of the counterrevolution. Along with the army, the militias and the bandit-fighting units carried out the closest coordination with the state security forces. One has to justifiably point out that the officers who carried out this work, especially in the provinces most infected with banditry, became true masters in the art of penetrating, locating and capturing these bands. The counterrevolutionaries carried out very ingenious techniques to escape persecution and avoid being infiltrated. But the methods applied against them by the security combatants were more audacious. There were complete bands which believing that they were boarding a boat to escape to the United States, with blond marines who spoke English and offered them whiskey, had the bitter surprise of finding out that they were in fact in the hands of revolutionary justice. [applause]

In every one of these operations, in every task of locating, surrounding and elminating these groups of bandits, there were many humble heroes of our people who worked anonymously alongside our glorious Revolutionary Armed Forces. The security officers contributed to brilliantly accomplishing and executing these acts, on many occasions risking their own lives and those of the agents and collaborators, living in the mountains and fields, alone and sometimes even unarmed, sacrificing and facing all the risks to penetrate the enemy and get the necessary information for their capture. Today some of the names of these simple and extraordinary heroes who generously gave their lives, such as the unforgettable Comrade Alberto Delgado, are known. [applause]

Even if one wanted to, one could not for years disclose that the man who fell was not a traitor but rather a combatant of the revolution. All the comrades who struggled and collaborated with security in the battle against banditry receive on this 20th anniversary an emotional salute from all our people. In the same way it is necessary to point out the efforts made by the auxiliary personnel comrades. We know very well what this work of 20 years and 24-hour-a-day tension does. We do not know if there are statistics in this field, but it appears to us very clear that no leader in the world today has had more assassination attempts planned against him than Comrade Fidel. It is known today that this problem was dealt with by the U.S. presidential office itself. There is a report of the U.S. Senate committee which, although it is very incomplete, shows that the CIA placed all of their technical resources at the service of these attempts to assassinate Fidel.

The imperialists, with the most absolute disregard and scorn for the norms of civilized conduct, tried to implant this law of the jungle. They drew up and even tried to carry out assassination attempts. As we all know, Comrade Fidel did not because of this refrain from carrying out his revolutionary style of work, in permanent contact with the people, visiting work centers and almost daily participating in public activities. Nor was any other leader kept from his tasks. Nevertheless, the fact is that over 20 years the enemy, despite its powerful means and its repeated attempts, was not able to penetrate our defense even a single time. This was due in large part to the zealous vigilance of the combatants of personal security. [applause]

There is another front of struggle, of struggle and victories, which should be stressed on this anniversary because they were achieved in a difficult battle full or privations, in which many heroes signed the historic [combat] banner of the Cuban people. We are speaking of the long and harsh struggle against piracy and the enemy infiltrations. It is known that since 1960 the center organized by the CIA in Miami directed the work of infiltration along the coasts of agents who were to create espionage networks and supply equipment, weapons and explosives to the counterrevolutionary groups. Hundreds of these types of activities began from this movement.

Imperialism also encouraged the attempts to hijack airliners and boats, starting a practice in the world which has had such unfortunate consequences. More than one of our brave guards have fallen defending under desperate conditions a piece of the national territory, without ever submitting to the demands of the enemy.

The pirate and terrorist attacks against economic objectives and cities also took several years of acute struggle. At the beginning, when the country still lacked combat planes to patrol our skies, the counterrevolution used the airways with impunity. Afterward, they were forced to use the sea, especially after the crisis of the Caribbean. The CIA furiously undertook a war of destruction against economic installations, sugarcane mills, refineries and other industries. At the same time they attacked Soviet merchant ships and ships from other countries in an effort to squeeze the economic blockade against Cuba even more.

In 1963 they carried out 17 attacks of this type. The nearby U.S. areas and keys belonging to other states were used by the counterrevolutionaries to commit their villanies, and at the same time the extension and complexity of our coasts made protection against this type of attack a truly titanic task, a task in which the combatants of security, the auxiliary forces, the militias and all of the organized people in the coastal zones participated.

Today we should pay tribute with enormous warmth to one of the founders of our state security organs, and the first organizer of the border guard troops, the unforgettable international hero Orlando Pantoja. [applause] To our heroic and unselfish border guards, who are sleepless sentinels of the fatherland, as Fidel has called them; to those who day and night, in rain or shine, on inhospitable keys or among the mangroves, are the first guardians of the revolution: On this 20th anniversary they should receive the thankful embrace and the fraternal encouragement of all of the Cuban people. [applause] But the various state security organs have not struggled alone, for along with them are other forces of the Interior Ministry in the arduous combat over these two decades to make the Cuban Revolution unassailable.

They have also joined in the worthy and beautiful trenches of internationalist duty. War-hardened combatants who have arisen from their ranks have written immortal pages of bravery and greatness in support of the revolutionary movement. Others have given their valuable aid in the struggle for the liberation of the African peoples.

An extraordinary symbol of internationalists is the heroic Comrade (Iseo Reyes), our dear [word indistinct] [applause] founder of state security and an irreproachable example of rectitude, morality and communist spirit who gave his blood along with Che in the battle for liberating the peoples of America.

In speaking about internationalism in the ranks of security, one is obliged to mention the heroic and vanguard role played in this field by the special operations comrades. There is practically no internationalist mission in which the combatants of this directorate have not participated outstandingly, not counting the valuable and unselfish tasks which daily they fulfill inside our country. Written on the banner of combat of our security organs are the names of the eternal heroes of the special operations who fell to give life to the most beautiful essence of communism--proletarian internationalism. [applause]

In the same way it is correct to point out today the important cooperation provided by the comrades in security to various revolutionary countries, who contribute their experiences in preparing the defense of those liberating processes and protecting their political leaders. The struggle against the enemy has made us strong, made us experienced; it gave us capable and valuable cadres. This strength, experience and cadre will serve not only to make our border more secure but will also serve to continue winning battles against the imperialists and the reactionary forces wherever they may be. The enemy, defeated in direct combat, today undertakes maneuvers of encirclement over the long term with the deceptive objective that they will be able to weaken and someday break up the political and ideological unity of our socialist society. Imperialism stubbornly seizes the policy of diplomatic isolation and economic blocade to cause the most damage possible to the revolution and prevent the force of its example.

Imperialism tries to pressure Cuba; it tries to persuade it to betray its internationalist duties, doing anything to encourage a breach in relations between our country and the Soviet Union and the socialist community. It vainly tries to encourage ideological confusion and introduce its decadent concepts and its rotting ethics into the heart of our people.

But as Fidel has already stated with absolute clarity, we are neither China nor Egypt. Cuba does not give up, sell, rent or prostitute itself for some contemptible crumbs. Cuba will never betray...[interrupted by applause] Cuba will never betray proletarian internationalism, because to do so we would cease being revolutionaries. Cuba will never betray the Soviet Union, our intimate brother in struggle and victory. Cuba will not be pressured or intimidated. Cuba will march forward with unbreakable loyalty to socialism, Marxism-Leninism, internationalism and to the cause of peoples liberation.

We will continue advancing with optimism and confidence in the future, with the belief that the future belongs to those who know how to make sacrifices, to those who do not kneel or are fearful of obstacles. And in this arduous struggle which still has many glorious pages to be written, our men and women of the state security organs will continue marching in the front ranks. They will continue showing their example of modesty, discipline and spirit of sacrifice, always alongside the people, always flesh and blood of the people, always with their support and warmth and always as loyal and unyielding servants of their interests. They will continue building and safeguarding the fatherland of tomorrow.

In commemorating this 20th anniversary, one has to point out the decisive merit in the creation, orientation, formation and development of the state security held in the first place by Comrades Fidel and Raul. [applause]

One has to say that as the ones with the top responsibilities for the political direction of the government and the defense of the revolution, Comrades Fidel and Raul personally directed the creation of security; they outlined its policy and they have paid the most meticulous attention to the development of all of its tasks, participating directly in the operations of its delicate work. And they have made inestimable contributions over these 20 years in educating its chiefs and officers in the highest spirit of justice, political and human sense, dedication to duty and exemplary conduct. Under their superior guidance the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Interior Ministry--the armed shields of our people--have become and will always be the twin brothers of struggle and victory.

We would like to express to Comrade Sergio del Valle our fraternal congratulations for all of the work [interrupted by prolonged applause] for all the work done until now. And also to express our recognition for the work done over 20 years by Comrade Jose Abrantes and the comrades who along with him [interrupted by prolonged applause] and the comrades who along with him have organized and directed the General Staff of the state security organs.

In the same way we should point out the importance of the valuable aid provided by the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community to the development of our security over these years. [applause]

Over these days a group of brave comrade-founders of the state security have received the commemorative insignia of this heroic [corrects himself] historic anniversary. And all of the chiefs, officers, and combatants [of the security organs] have been objects of the very warm and emotional homage paid by the mass organizations, children and all of the people. It is true that revolutionaries do not struggle for recognition and the honors which one day they may receive by their actions. But nothing can be more just, nothing can be so profoundly encouraging and rewarding as to feel that the sacrifices made deserve the respect, admiration and the warmth of all the compatriots.

Therefore we should remember those other comrades who today also complete 20 years of struggle in state security but who will commemorate this anniversary in the silence of their hearts and who cannot receive the fervent homage of their people or proudly breathe the free air of the homeland because they are at this time carrying out acts, after over 20 years of combat, in the innermost recesses of the enemy. [prolonged applause] To these anonymous founders and combatants, who are unsurpassable representatives of our security's stoicism, will of steel and spirit of sacrifice, to these unknown heroes of today, whose names and deeds will someday come out of the silence to enter into the fatherland's history, to those comrades and dear brothers, wherever they may be, on this day may they receive the unlimited gratitude of all the people and an emotional embrace from our party and government. [applause] To them, who symbolize the unyielding force of our victories, our victories of yesterday, today and tomorrow, we raise on high our banners of struggle and combat.

Long live the 20th anniversary of our heroic state security organs. [shouts of "Viva" and applause]

Long live proletarian internationalism. [shouts of "Viva" and applause]

Long live Fidel. [shouts of "Viva" and applause]

Fatherland or death. [shouts of "We will win" and applause]

SECURITY ORGANS ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT OPENS

FL231114 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 23 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The "20th anniversary of state security organs" exhibit, a vast demonstration of counterespionage work over the past 2 decades, was inaugurated last night at the Cuba Pavilion as part of the central commemorations of the anniversary. We have more details from our reporter Roberto Nachar:

[Begin Nachar recording] PCC Politburo members Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes and Div Gen Sergio del Valle, minister of the interior, attended the exposition inaugurated on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of state security organs. The exposition will be open to the public until late April at the Cuba Pavilion in Havana City. Brig Gen Jose Abrantes, first vice minister of the interior and member of the PCC Central Committee, inaugurated the exposition. He recalled the history of struggles of state security organs shown at the exposition. Abrantes referred to the combatants who anonymously worked hard and even gave their lives to make it possible to safeguard the revolutionary gains.

The exhibits, divided into specific sections, show weapons and equipment seized from the enemy, photographs, videotapes, mockups, maps and explanations of certain cases completed by the state security organs. [end recording]

GRANMA PRAISES WORK OF SECURITY ORGANS

PA241951 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The Cuban daily newspaper GRANMA, has said in an editorial that the state security organs of our country, which will mark their 20th anniversary Monday, the day after tomorrow, constitute an example of communist courage, discipline and morals. The newspaper adds that these corps are composed of men and women of proven revolutionary militancy, mainly of peasant and worker ancestry, who have a deep-seated political conscience and profound ideological convictions.

The editorial stresses the successful participation of the members of the Cuban security corps in internationalist tasks, the preservation of the lives of our leaders, and the thwarting of plots hatched by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency against Cuba.

In conclusion, GRANMA expresses the admiration and fondness of the entire people for the combatants who, with their unsung work, have helped achieve the impetuous advance of the Cuban Revolution.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

FL240124 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Blas Roca, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the People's Government National Assembly, made the closing remarks at the press conference held today by the National Electoral Commission in this capital to report on the elections scheduled for 8 April next. The chairman of the commission is Justice Minister Armando Torres Santrayll, and its members are Jose Aranaburu, Angel Quevedo and Roberto Hidalgo, who reported on the preparation and delivery of voting identification cards. During the press conference Blas Roca stated: It is delightful to observe that contrary to the past when a soldier was posted at the entrance of the polling station, now the children are the ones who organize and supervise our socialist elections.

PRESIDENT GUZMAN COMMENTS ON FUEL PRICES

PA231315 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2301 GMT 21 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 21 Mar (EFE)--President Antonio Guzman today asked Dominicans for sacrifice and resignation in view of the imminent increase in fuel prices.

Guzman said that the government needs the cooperation of each citizen in order to bear the additional $56 million which the government must spend in view of the new oil prices.

Guzman affirmed that oil import expenditures will be "a tremendous burden on the country's economy" in view of the $1.20 surcharge which Venezuela will charge effective 1 April.

Meanwhile, Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, has continued his public awareness campaign by urging people to save fuel.

Pena Gomez, who fears that the unpopular measures will reflect on his government and party, warned that those who use air conditioners and luxury cars must bear most of the burden.

In January, Pena Gomez criticized the first increase in gasoline prices and described it as an unwise measure. Public opinion polls conducted at that time revealed a decrease in the government's popularity.

It seems that the government fears these setbacks in its popularity and has decided to carry out a public motivation campaign before the prices of gasoline and cement and electricity rates go up.

The government claims that these problems were inherited from the previous administration, which delayed their solution and tried to take advantage of last year's electoral campaign.

Meanwhile, Santo Domingo has begun to feel the effects of the decrease in the production of gas, gasoline and other byproducts. The Dominican oil refinery noted the need for the government to adopt drastic measures that would result in the saving of fuel.

The daily production of bottled gas, used for stoves, has dropped from 65,000 to 52,000 gallons. Gasoline production dropped from 305,000 to 244,000 gallons.

The total drop in the production of various petroleum byproducts amounts to approximately 202,000 gallons. The current production of petroleum byproducts in 808,000 gallons.

Venezuela has reduced its oil deliveries by 20 percent because of explosions at one well. Last month, oil tankers [petroleros] arrived late and carried 25,000 barrels a day less.

The first oil tanker for the month of April will also be delayed, and the refinery is out of oil and has requested the establishment of supply quotas.

JAMAICA

WORKERS PARTY LEADER HAILS MANLEY'S USSR VISIT

FL262154 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2124 GMT 26 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Trevor Munroe, secretary general of the Jamaican Workers Party, has stated that we welcome the development of relations between Jamaica and the USSR and the establishment of closer ties between the ruling People's National Party and the CPSU. Trevor Munroe told the [word indistinct] correspondent in Jamaica that the upcoming visit by the prime minister of that country, Michael Manley, to the USSR will lead to strengthening relations between the states and ties in the political and other areas.

Munroe added that Manley's visit is in agreement with the interests of all progressive forces in the country. In referring to the Jamaican Workers Party, Munroe stated that his organization's policies, statutes and programs are testimonies to the birth of new Communist parties in the English-speaking countries in Latin America.

SEAGA SAYS PNP CONSIDERING 'MARXISM, COMMUNISM'

FL261419 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Opposition leader Edward Seaga has charged that the People's National Party [PNP] is now faced with the crossroad decision as to whether to take a sharp turn to Marxism and communism to conquer its inability to restore economic growth to the country.

In a news release Mr Seaga further charged that the matter was now the subject of high level debate in the PNP and was the basis for the prime minister's visit to the USSR. The debate, he said, was based on arguments that since the country won't produce then strong measures was to use the forced production. [as heard] According to Mr Seaga the prime minister's visit to the Soviet Union is to endeavor to sell bauxite and alumina to that country in order to obtain financial assistance to make good any loss of the assistance now available to Jamaica.

Mr Seaga said that any [word indistinct] of the markets left by the PNP will immediately precipitate the greatest financial [word indistinct] the country has ever faced. Mr Seaga also said that if the PNP turns the market into communism among the changes that will result will be the use of the security forces, including the Home Guards, as a means of suppressing the public's discontent which will immediately develop. He also suggested that the [words indistinct] will come into use and that parliamentary democracy will be destroyed.